



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

ELP
Docket No. 7413-99
28 February 2000

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 24 February 2000. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

The Board found that you enlisted in the Navy on 29 December 1986 for four years. At that time, you also extended your enlistment for an additional period of 24 months in exchange for training in the advanced electronics field and accelerated advancement to pay grade E-4.

The record reflects that you were advanced to MT3 (E-4) and served without incident until 24 May 1988 when you were referred for psychiatric evaluation because of vague suicidal ideation, severe alcohol abuse and marital problems. The medical record reflects that your class instructor stated that you were having difficulty meeting school requirements and were placed in a mandatory study program. You complained of being depressed and angry all the time, and taking out your anger on your stepson. You stated "I can not adapt to the Navy, I want out. I should not be in the military and I'm not making it. Every day gets worse, the Navy wants too much from me." You were diagnosed with alcohol dependence and a passive-aggressive personality disorder. It was recommended that you be considered for immediate

separation due to personality disorder and that you be offered alcohol rehabilitation treatment via a Veterans Administration treatment facility. You were disqualified for submarine duty by reason of academic disenrollment on 3 June 1988.

The record further reflects that also on 3 June 1988 you signed a statement acknowledging that you had been diagnosed as psychologically dependent on alcohol and offered a transfer to an inpatient treatment facility to assist you in overcoming your alcohol problem. However, you declined to accept this treatment or take antabuse since you were not motivated for treatment and considered your potential for future service to be poor. The statement indicates that you understood that you could be considered for administrative discharge by reason of alcohol rehabilitation failure.

On 10 June 1988, you were notified that you were being considered for an administrative separation by reason of alcohol rehabilitation failure as evidenced by failure, through inability or refusal, to participate in, cooperate in, or successfully complete an alcohol rehabilitation program. You were advised of your procedural rights and waived those rights. You did not object to the discharge. On 15 June 1988 the discharge authority directed separation with an honorable discharge by reason of alcohol rehabilitation failure. You were so discharged on 30 June 1988 and assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

Regulations require the assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code to an individual discharged by reason of alcohol rehabilitation failure. The Board noted the letters of reference and your statement that since your discharge, you have furthered your education, been married, have become an ordained minister, and desire a position in the reserves as a chaplain's assistant. You contend that the problems that plagued you in the past are no longer present. However, since you were treated no differently than others discharged under similar circumstances, the Board could find no error or injustice in your assigned reenlistment code. Your desire to enlist in the reserve does not provide a valid basis for changing a correctly assigned reenlistment code. The Board concluded that the reenlistment code was proper and no change is warranted. Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new and material evidence or other matter not previously considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records.

Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER
Executive Director